

***Remarks***

Reconsideration of this Application is respectfully requested.

Upon entry of the foregoing amendment, claims 41-69 are pending in the application, with 41 and 59 being the independent claims. Claim 1 is sought to be cancelled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter therein. New claims 41-69 are sought to be added. Support for new claims 41-69 can be found, *inter alia*, at paragraphs 45, 56 and 65-67 of the specification, and in the original claims, as filed. These changes are believed to introduce no new matter, and their entry is respectfully requested.

Based on the above amendment and the following remarks, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider all outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn.

***Objection to the Specification***

The Examiner has objected to the disclosure because of the informality that the status of the application is not updated. *See* Office Action, page 2, lines 1-7. The specification has been amended herein to update the status of the application. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the objection.

***Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 101***

Claim 1 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as allegedly claiming the same invention as that of claim 1 of prior U.S. Patent No. 6,635,489. *See* Office Action, page 2, lines 8-19. Claim 1 is canceled herein, without prejudice or disclaimer. New claims 41-69 include a destaining step (method claims) or destaining agents (kit claims), which are not recited in the claims of U.S. Patent No. 6,635,489. Accordingly, Applicant has overcome the rejection and respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection.

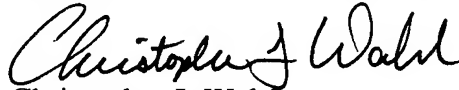
***Conclusion***

All of the stated grounds of objection and rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn. Applicant believes that a full and complete reply has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment and Reply is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.



Christopher J. Walsh  
Agent for Applicant  
Registration No. 55,709

Date: September 10, 2004

1100 New York Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20005-3934  
(202) 371-2600